

Safety Assessment Program



Throughout the world, natural disasters are happening more often. There is also a new potential disaster - terrorism. And equally important, large and complex structures and infrastructures are being placed in disaster-prone areas. All this results in additional burdens for federal, state and local governments with regards to the safety of these structures after a disaster has struck.

The Safety Assessment Program (SAP) provides resources (volunteers and mutual aid) to local governments, assisting them with the evaluation of facilities (buildings, and infrastructures) in the aftermath of a disastrous event. SAP's goal is help local government perform accurate facility safety assessments as quickly as possible. SAP has been successful in this endeavor during recent major earthquakes, Loma Prieta (1989), Northridge (1994), and Napa (2000).

SAP process:

- Professional organizations train evaluators (engineers, architects and building inspectors) to perform facility evaluations for all types of disasters (earthquakes, floods, landslides, terrorism, etc.)
- Authority to do inspections is derived from local government and is not usurped by the State.
- Evaluators can be deputized as local building officials to post placards (green, yellow or red) on facilities
- All resources are designated as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs)
- California law provides workers' compensation and liability protection to volunteers while they are deployed by the state to perform SAP duties.

All registered SAP evaluators must:

- Be professionally registered engineers, professionally licensed architects, certified building officials or inspectors.
- Have a general knowledge of construction, professional experience and judgment.

These qualifications are important because of the seriousness encumbered when a building, structure and/or lifeline systems are being evaluated for short-term and long-term usage. This process is not intended to identify or quantify damaged facilities, but to evaluate their potential for safe use.

The program continues to seek qualified volunteers to assist in the essential safety evaluation process. This also provides a good opportunity for professional designers to evaluate effects of various design techniques immediately following a major disaster.



SAP EVALUATORS

SAP Evaluators are licensed and certified engineers, architects, or building officials and inspectors from:

- † Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC)
- † American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)
- † American Institute of Architects (AIA)
- † California Building Officials (CALBO)
- † American Construction Inspectors Association (ACIA)

Websites

OES
www.oes.ca.gov

SEAOC
www.seaoc.org

AIA
www.aia.org

CASCE
www.casce.org

CALBO
www.calbo.org



To become a SAP disaster service worker or for further information, please visit the SAP website via www.oes.ca.gov or contact: Michael Sabbaghian, Senior Civil Engineer, with state OES at (916) 845-8265 or at Michael.Sabbaghian@oes.ca.gov

